



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

January 24, 2011

April 21, 2011 – Pocatello, ID

Highway Safety Summit

Register online

www.highwaysafetysummit.com

Idaho Transportation Department - PO Box 7129 – Boise, ID 83707-1129

P: (208) 334-8100 F: (208) 334-4430 - - www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs

General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners,

The Idaho Legislature is meeting and dealing with the challenge of reduced funding and what to cut to balance the budget. I am pleased to see their interest as well in legislation to reduce traffic deaths, serious injuries, and the economic losses, including costs being paid with Medicaid and Idaho's Catastrophic Health Care Cost Fund (CAT). Legislators are working on bills to address seat belt use (primary) and distracted driving. I am including two fact sheets to provide you with information on these topics.

Below are some interesting stories. Please take a few minutes to check them out. And for the law enforcement agencies, please consider nominating one of your law enforcement officers for a Beyond the Traffic Stop Award for some great work they have done. See below.

Idaho is still holding steady at 211 traffic deaths in 2010, a decrease from 226 in 2009. And so far this year, we only know of 6 traffic deaths. We are so pleased that people are making smart driving choices. Keep up the great work.

Mary Hunter
Highway Safety Manager

Causes, effects. NHTSA has released an interesting study by Bedford Research and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. It sought to determine the relative impact of primary seat belt laws and fine amounts on seat belt usage. It found that the top 10 states in seat belt use had higher fines and more citations. A surprise for the *Alliance Alert* was that the states that had the poorest results spent more on advertising during Click It or Ticket blitzes.

NTSB Most Wanted. This is a handy article to have on hand from the National Transportation Safety Board. It gives a concise, well worded overview of the top ten safety issues we're battling on our roadways today and where we stand in the fight, legislation-wise.

Powerful. Effective. Sad. You'll have your own words to describe this 11-minute video, "The Last Text." The documentary is a part of AT&T's "It Can Wait" campaign released in March 2010 to educate consumers about the dangers of texting while driving.

Young faces, old faces, too many faces. A sad perusal of faces on this web page will soften the hardest opponent of seat belt and other laws aimed at lowering our highway death count. The pictures were posted by grieving families, all united by roadway fatalities in South Carolina. The site is hosted by the SC Highway Patrol. (You also may follow a link on the SC Alive at 25 site where the ATT video is posted. Alive at 25 is a defensive driving course offered by the National Safety Council. Go to www.nsc.org and search for "Alive at 25.")

Calendar of Events

Date	Event Description
March 11-21, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467
March 27-29, 2011	LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE – Phoenix, AZ. www.lifesaversconference.org
April 7-18, 2011	AGGRESSIVE DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Cecilia Awusie, OHS GCO, Cecilia.awusie@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8112
April 21, 2011	HIGHWAY SAFETY SUMMIT – Pocatello, ID. Red Lion Hotel. 8:00am-5:00pm www.highwaysafetysummit.com to register. Contact: Lisa Losness lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-1803
May 3, 2011	ITSC (Idaho Traffic Safety Commission) – Spring meeting – Boise, ID. Location TBA
May 28-June 7, 2011	SEAT BELT Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Lisa Losness, OHS GCO, lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov (208) 344-8103

Vital Signs: Nonfatal, Motor Vehicle--Occupant Injuries (2009) and Seat Belt Use (2008) Among Adults --- United States

January 7, 2011 / 59(51);1681-1686 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

On January 4, this report was posted as an MMWR Early Release on the MMWR website (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>).

Abstract

Background: Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in the United States among persons aged 5--34 years. Seat belts have been shown to be the most effective method for reducing injuries among adults in the event of a crash.

Methods: CDC used 2009 data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System--All Injury Program (NEISS-AIP) to provide U.S. estimates of the number and rate of nonfatal, motor vehicle--occupant injuries treated in emergency departments among adults aged ≥18 years. In addition, CDC used 2008 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to estimate the prevalence of self-reported seat belt use among adults in the United States. Seat belt use was examined further by type of state seat belt enforcement law.

Results: In 2009 in the United States, an estimated 2.3 million adult motor vehicle--occupants had nonfatal injuries treated in emergency departments. The nonfatal, motor vehicle--occupant injury rate declined 15.6% from 1,193.8 per 100,000 population in 2001 to 1,007.5 per 100,000 population in 2009. In 2008, self-reported seat belt use was higher in states with primary enforcement laws (88.2%), compared with states with secondary enforcement laws (79.2%). If the secondary law states had achieved 88.2% seat belt use in 2008, an additional 7.3 million adults would have been belted. From 2002 to 2008, self-reported seat belt use increased overall from 80.5% to 85.0%.

Conclusions: Nonfatal, motor vehicle--occupant injuries treated in emergency departments have declined in recent years but still affect a substantial proportion of the adult U.S. population each year. Self-reported belt use increased from 2002 to 2008, and was higher in states with primary enforcement laws compared with states with secondary enforcement laws.

Implications for Public Health Practice: Seat belt use is a proven method to reduce motor vehicle--occupant injuries, and the results of this analysis demonstrate that states with primary enforcement laws have higher prevalence of self-reported seat belt use. To help reduce the number of motor vehicle--occupant injuries, 19 states without primary enforcement laws should consider enacting them.

For the complete report click http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5951a3.htm?s_cid=mm5951a3_w

Beyond the Traffic Stop – Annual Award

NOMINATION FORM

Do you know of a law enforcement agency or individual you would like to nominate for their work performed above and beyond the traffic stop? The Office of Highway Safety and the Law Enforcement Liaisons would like to give special recognition to those individuals and agencies during the 2010 Highway Safety summit on April 28th. The **nomination deadline is Friday, April 4, 2011.**

To make a nomination please provide the following information:

Agency: _____

Agency Chief / Sheriff: _____

Officer Name *(if nominating an officer.)* _____

Brief description of the traffic stop and the work that took it beyond... *i.e. did the stop lead to an arrest of a felon, a drug bust or other extraordinary work)*

Submitted by: _____

Date: _____

Submit your nomination to the ITD Office of Highway Safety attn: Lisa Losness by fax to (208) 334-4430, mail to P.O. Box 7129, Boise, ID 83707 or e-mail to lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov.



State Alcohol-Impaired Driving Estimates

The web page below provides estimates of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes for the United States and individually for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (not included in the national totals). These estimates are based on data from NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811385.pdf>

December Impaired Mobilization

The December mobilization ended on January 3, and claims for O/T and Incentive have begun arriving. If your agency participated, and the claim has not been submitted, the deadline is February 4, as I have to submit a report to NHTSA by February 11. More than 60 agencies participated, so I need time to gather the information for the report.